

## REMARKS

Claims 21-49 are pending in the application. Claims 21, 38, and 48 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

### **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

The Office Action rejects claims 21 and 23-48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Vathulya et al. (U.S. 6,297,524). The Office Action also rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vathulya.

Claims 21, 38, and 48, as presently amended, recite:

wherein the side walls and the top wall are in direct contact with the insulating layer

Applicants submit that Vathulya does not recite this limitation.

In Vathulya, the top wall of the elevation portions 32 are in direct contact with one of layers L2, L3, and L4 which, according to Vathulya, are electrically conductive ring-shaped lines. In other words, layers L2, L3 and L4 are not in direct contact with an insulating layer. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Vathulya does not anticipate independent claims 21, 38, and 48. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) against claims 21, 38, and 48, and also dependent claims 22-37 and 39-47 as they depend from claims 21 and 38, respectively. Applicants also respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) against claim 22 as claim 22 depends from claim 21 which, for the reasons argued above, should be allowed.

### **Allowed Claims**

The Office Action indicates that claim 49 is allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this determination.

### **Conclusion**

Applicants believe the claims, as presently amended, adequately address the rejections in the office action. Accordingly, issuance of the patent is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem a telephone conference to be of assistance in

advancing the application to issuance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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